

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants submit this Request, together with a Petition for Extension of Time, in reply to the Office Action mailed February 25, 2004.

Before entry of this Request, claims 59-73 were pending in this application. After entry of this Request, claims 59-73 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 59-63, 65, and 67 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,728,957 to Dickinson (“Dickinson”). The Examiner also stated that claims 64, 66, and 68-73 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Office Action for at least the reasons discussed below.

Examiner Interview

Applicants’ representative conducted an interview with the Examiner on July 20, 2004. Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s willingness to discuss the present application in an interview.

Exhibits A-D

During the interview, Applicants and the Examiner looked at and discussed four (4) three-dimensional drawings. Applicants submit four similar drawings with this Request, labeled as Exhibits A-D. Exhibits A-D show perspective views of an example of a toroidal support used, for example, for the deposition of elongated sections comprising single cords or strips comprising more than one parallel cord. The perspective views are partially interrupted and partially sectioned. Each Exhibit is discussed below.

The following key is used in Exhibits A-D and in those discussions.

<u>Identifier</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
VD _a	Viewing direction, axial
VD _r	Viewing direction, radial
O	Geometric rotation axis of the toroidal support
X-X	Equatorial plane of the toroidal support
POI	Point defined by intersection of O and X-X
P	A meridian plane of the toroidal support
Y	Line defined by intersection of P and X-X
N	A deposition plane of the elongated sections
Z	Line defined by intersection of N and X-X
Q	Line or plane defined by intersection of N and P
d	Distance between N and P along X-X
s	Distance between N and P along O

Applicants note that in each Exhibit, geometric rotation axis O of the toroidal support intersects equatorial plane X-X of the toroidal support at point POI. Additionally, each Exhibit depicts both axial viewing direction VD_a and radial viewing direction VD_r.

Applicants also note that the originally-filed specification defines “parallelly offset” as “the deposition plane N, seen in a direction parallel to the geometric axis ‘O’ of the toroidal support 11 as in Figs. 8 to 15, is substantially parallel to the meridian plane P or in any case does not converge on the geometric axis of the toroidal support itself, at least at the intersection between the equatorial plane X-X and the geometric axis.” (Specification, p. 22/ll. 20-27). The specification goes on to state that “[t]his does not prevent the deposition plane of each section from being also inclined to the meridian plane P, when seen from a direction radial to the geometric axis ‘O’, to give the crown portions a desired inclination relative to a direction parallel to the geometric axis itself.” (Id., p. 22/ll. 27-32).

Exhibit A

In Exhibit A, the elongated section is deposited on the toroidal support with deposition plane N of the elongated section coincident with meridian plane P of the toroidal support. As a result, line Z, defined by the intersection of deposition plane N and equatorial plane X-X, is coincident with line Y, defined by the intersection of meridian plane P and equatorial plane X-X. Plane Q, defined by the intersection of deposition plane N and meridian plane P, is coincident with both deposition plane N and meridian plane P. Exhibit A represents a typical deposition of an elongated section for the carcass structure of a radial tyre.

The deposition of Exhibit A, however, does not meet the definition of “parallelly offset” at least because deposition plane N, seen in axial viewing direction VD_a , is coincident with meridian plane P, as opposed to being substantially parallel to meridian plane P.

Exhibit B

In Exhibit B, the elongated section is deposited on the toroidal support with its deposition plane N intersecting meridian plane P only along line Y. However, line Z is once again coincident with both lines Y and Q. Exhibit B represents deposition of an elongated section for the carcass structure of a tyre similar to that shown in Dickinson.

The deposition of Exhibit B, however, does not meet the definition of “parallelly offset” at least because deposition plane N converges on geometric axis O at point POI.

Exhibit C

In Exhibit C, the elongated section is deposited on the toroidal support with its deposition plane N parallel to meridian plane P. As a result, line Z is parallel to line Y, separated by a distance d. There is no intersection of deposition plane N and meridian plane P in Exhibit C, so

line or plane Q is not shown. Exhibit C represents deposition of an elongated section for the carcass structure of a tyre according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

Exhibit C meets the definition of “parallelly offset” at least because deposition plane N, seen in axial viewing direction VD_a , is parallel to meridian plane P.

Exhibit D

In Exhibit D, the elongated section is deposited on the toroidal support with its deposition plane N intersecting meridian plane P along line Q and parallel to line Y. As a result, line Z is parallel to line Y, separated by a distance d. Similarly, line Q is parallel to line Y, separated by a distance s. Exhibit D represents deposition of an elongated section for the carcass structure of a tyre according to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

Exhibit D meets the definition of “parallelly offset” at least because, although deposition plane N converges on geometric axis O, it does not converge on geometric axis O at point POI.

Section 102(b) Rejection—Independent Claim 59

Applicants submit that independent claim 59 is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by the cited references, including Dickinson and the other art of record.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. See MPEP 706.02, Subsection IV (8th ed., Rev. 2, May 2004). Applicants submit that the discussion above demonstrates that Dickinson does not teach or suggest all aspects of independent claim 59, including, inter alia, “wherein each elongated section is laid down substantially in a plane parallelly offset relative to a meridian plane of the toroidal support.”

Because Dickinson does not teach, either explicitly or impliedly, all aspects of claim 59, Applicants submit that independent claim 59 is patentable and not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by the cited references, including Dickinson and the other art of record.

Section 102(b) Rejection—Dependent Claims 60-63, 65, and 67

Applicants submit that dependent claims 60-63, 65, and 67 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by the cited references, including Dickinson and the other art of record, at least due to the direct or indirect dependency of claims 60-63, 65, and 67 from independent claim 59.

Allowable Claims 64, 66, and 68-73

As discussed above, the Examiner has stated that claims 64, 66, and 68-73 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Scope

In discussing the specification, claims, abstract, and drawings in this Request, it is to be understood that Applicants are in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification or abstract and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicants believe that Applicants are entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

Summary

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this Application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.



Dated: July 23, 2004

By: _____
Lawrence F. Galvin
Reg. No. 44,694